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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/47/678/Add.2)]

47/136. Summary or arbitrary executions

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ which guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of person,

Having regard to the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 2/ in which it is stated that every human being has the inherent right to life, that this right shall be protected by law and that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life,

Recalling its resolution 36/22 of 9 November 1981, in which it condemned the practice of summary and arbitrary executions, and its resolutions 37/182 of 17 December 1982, 38/96 of 16 December 1983, 39/110 of 14 December 1984, 40/143 of 13 December 1985, 41/144 of 4 December 1986, 42/141 of 7 December 1987, 43/151 of 8 December 1988, 44/159 of 15 December 1989 and 45/162 of 18 December 1990,

Deeply alarmed at the continued occurrence on a large scale of summary or arbitrary executions, including extra-legal executions,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50 of 25 May 1984 and the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

death penalty annexed thereto, which resolution was endorsed by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in its resolution 15, 3/

Welcoming the close cooperation established between the Centre for Human Rights and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control 4/ with regard to questions relating to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,

Convinced of the need for appropriate action to combat and eventually eliminate the abhorrent practice of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, which represents a flagrant violation of the most fundamental right, the right to life,

1. Once again strongly condemns the large number of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions which continue to take place throughout the world;

2. Demands that the practice of summary or arbitrary executions be brought to an end;

3. Appeals urgently to Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to take effective action to combat and eliminate summary or arbitrary executions, including extra-legal executions;

4. Reaffirms Economic and Social Council decision 1992/242 of 20 July 1992, in which the Council approved the decision of the Commission on Human Rights 5/ to appoint a special rapporteur for three years to consider questions related to summary or arbitrary executions and also approved the Commission's request to the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur;

5. Urges all Governments, in particular those that have consistently not responded to communications transmitted to them by the Special Rapporteur, and all others concerned to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur so that he may carry out his mandate effectively;

6. Requests the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate, to respond effectively to information that comes before him, in particular when a summary or arbitrary execution is imminent or threatened, or when such an

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3/ See Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. 1, sect. E.

4/ In its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to dissolve the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and establish the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

5/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2 (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A, resolution 1992/72.

execution has recently occurred, and, furthermore, to promote exchanges of views between Governments and those who provide reliable information to the Special Rapporteur, where the Special Rapporteur considers that such exchanges of information might be useful;

7. Welcomes the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur in his reports to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fourth, forty-fifth, forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions 5/ with a view to eliminating summary or arbitrary executions;

8. Encourages Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to organize training programmes and support projects with a view to training or educating law enforcement officers in human rights issues connected with their work, and appeals to the international community to support endeavours to that end;

9. Considers that the Special Rapporteur, in carrying out his mandate, should continue to seek and receive information from Governments, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as medical and forensic experts;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur so that he may effectively carry out his mandate;

11. Again requests the Secretary-General to continue to use his best endeavours in cases where the minimum standard of legal safeguards provided for in articles 6, 14 and 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights appears not to have been respected;

12. Requests the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session, on the basis of the report of the Special Rapporteur, to make recommendations concerning appropriate action to combat and eventually eliminate the abhorrent practice of summary or arbitrary executions.

92nd plenary meeting
18 December 1992

6/ E/CN.4/1988/22 and Add.1 and 2, E/CN.4/1989/25, E/CN.4/1990/22 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/CN.4/1991/36 and E/CN.4/1992/30 and Corr.1 and Add.1.